

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 IO-13 ACDA-12 /101 W

-----045583 020604Z /11

P R 011315Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5466

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, CZ, UR

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV VISIT - SECOND AND THIRD DAY

REFS: (A) PREGUE 1377 (B) PRAGUE 1390

1. IN ADDITION TO THE TWO-HOUR CEREMONY MAY 31, AT WHICH BREZHNEV
GAVE MAJOR SPEECH (REFTEL), EVENTS IN WHICH BREZHNEV PARTICIPATED

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INCLUDED AN AWARD-GIVING CEREMONY, A TOUR OF PRAGUE'S METRO
(BEING CONSTRUCTED WITH SOVIET ASSISTANCE), A VISIT TO LENIN
MUSEUM AND TRAVEL TO BRATISLAVA FOR ANOTHER CEREMONIAL
GREETING. NOT ALL OF THESE EVENTS WERE COVERED BY TV BUT,
IN OUR VIEW, ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT BREZHNEV IS IN BEST OF
HEALTH.

2. DEPARTMENT AND MOSCOW SHOULD NOW HAVE TEXT OF MAY 31 SPEECH. WE WILL LEAVE DETAILED ANALYSIS TO VETERAN BREZHNEV WATCHERS, BUT WE FOUND ESPECIALLY NOTEWORTHY HIS EMPHASIS ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S SUCCESS IN OVERCOMING THE PROBLEMS OF 1968, HIS ATTENTION TO EFFORTS BY OPPONENTS OF DETENTE TO RETURN TO "IF NOT THE COLD, THEN A LUKEWARM WAR" OF IDEOLOGY, HIS CONCERN OVER TALKS AT THE CURRENT NATO SUMMIT ON "NEW WAR PREPARATIONS FOR MANY YEARS AHEAD, "AND HIS EXPRESSIONS OF RESENTMENT AT ALLEGATIONS OF SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ZAIRE EVENTS. SPEECH BY HUSAK AT SAME CEREMONY WENT PERHAPS FARTHER THAN ANY OTHER RECENT CZECHOSLOVAK STATEMENT IN PRAISING 1968 SOVIET INTERVENTION FOR PROTECTING "OUR FATHERLAND FROM A COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY COUP."

3. IN AWARDS CEREMONY LATER IN DAY, BREZHNEV PRESENTED HUSAK THE ORDER OF OCTOBER REVOLUTION, WHICH SUPREME SOVIET HAD AWARDED HIM ON 65TH BIRTHDAY IN JANUARY, AND BILAK THE ORDER OF LENIN, WHICH PRESUMABLY WAS THAT AWARDED HIM LAST AUGUST ON HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY. IN GIVING AWARD TO HUSAK, BREZHNEV WISHED HIM FURTHER LONG YEARS OF FRUITFUL SERVICE. IN STATEMENT TO BILAK, BREZHNEV NOTABLY REFERRED TO HIM AS A "TRUE COWORKER OF COMRADE HUSAK." THOSE STATEMENTS SHOULD HAVE REMOVED ANY DOUBTS HELD BY PUTATIVE RIVALS THAT HUSAK IS BREZHNEV'S CHOSEN INSTRUMENT.

4. ON EVENING OF MAY 31 BREZHNEV AND HUSAK FLEW OFF TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BRATISLAVA. IT PRESENTLY APPEARS THAT HIS STAY THERE WILL NOT INCLUDE ANY IMPORTANT STATEMENT, SINCE NO SPECIAL TV COVERAGE IS SCHEDULED.

5. WE ASSUME BREZHNEV WILL RETURN TO PRAGUE JUNE 1. HE IS SCHEDULED TO RECEIVE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AT MID-DAY JUNE 2 AND DEPART CZECHOSLOVAKIA LATER THAT DAY. DECONTROL 4 YEARS FROM ORIGINATING DATE. BYRNE

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